

### **Abstract of the disclosure**

In a hierarchical network configuration, if transfer of data such as requirements and responses therefrom and thereto, are executed in a relay manner between plural manager systems and managed systems on network routes, the requirements and the responses are duplicated in each manager system, thereby presenting a problem of increased amounts of data transfer on the network. The present invention that prevents the data transfer amounts from increasing not only on one route but also on plural routes solves this problem by determining whether to update data on the basis of names of a manager system in upper layers, route information and so forth.